

Animas River from the Northern Border of New Mexico to Navajo Nation

Surface water samples were collected at nine (9) locations south of Colorado along the Animas River and the San Juan River of New Mexico on Saturday, August 8, 2015. The results for the dissolved (filtered) metals surface water samples indicate that all nine locations were less than the drinking water standards (maximum contaminant limits (MCLs)). The dissolved metal concentrations were less than the New Mexico water quality standards for aquatic life (acute and chronic), livestock, and irrigation of crops, and the screening levels for recreation. The dissolved metal concentration in surface water represents the fraction of metals that are bioavailable. This bioavailable portion represents the fraction of metals that can cross the gills of fish and the cell membranes of aquatic organisms.

The results for total metals (unfiltered) surface water samples indicate that all nine locations were less than screening levels with the exception of MCLs for arsenic and lead.